Mat-Su Monitor
March 2014
Volume 36, Number 2

Introducing the Valley Center for Arts and Learning

by Gary Haag

A $20 million dollar building – the Valley Center for Arts and Learning – is under construction at Mat-Su College. Located adjacent to the Fred and Sara Machetanz building, this facility offers over 30,000 sq. ft. of space, including a theater and a variety of support facilities. The building has a tentative opening date of December 2014.

When you walk through new building's vestibule, you will be greeted with a 4,500 sq. ft. lobby, surrounded by 180 degrees of glass walls, complete with a box office and concession stand. Once you step into the theater, you will find a 4,000 sq. ft. stage and an orchestra pit, all in full view of over 500 seats. Backstage, you will find a scene and costume shop, two large dressing rooms, a Green Room, and a private "Star" dressing room. The building stands at an elevation of 60' from top to bottom, meaning a new building is making its debut to the Valley skyline.

Once the new facility is ready, the public will have the opportunity to rent the theater for business conventions, plays, musicals, lectures, concerts, weddings, and more. Exciting partnerships with community organizations like the Valley Performing Arts group, the State Fair, and the Valley Arts Alliance will create an exciting future for Valley theater. There is even the possibility for art shows and catered events in the beautiful lobby.

The new facility also brings over 200 parking spaces, with 100 at the top and an overflow lot with an additional 104 parking spaces. This project is a great example of UAA and MSC working together to make the valley a better place to live.

Above: Artist's rendition

Below: Work in progress – Photo by Gary Haag

Lower left : Groundbreaking

Matt Sale standing in front of the new Mat-Su College Valley Center for Arts and Learning – Photo by Gary Haag

Welcome Theatre Director Matt Sale

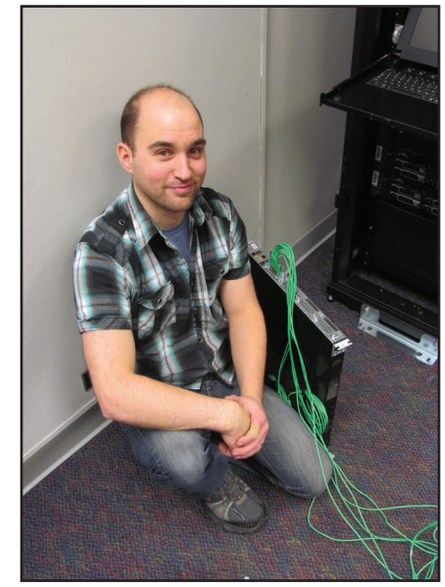
By Gary Haag

Mat-Su College would like to welcome Matt Sale, the director for the new Valley Center for Arts and Learning. Mr. Sale earned his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Before coming to Alaska, he was a Senior Production Manager with Princess Cruises and a Production Stage Manager with Busch Gardens. He has also designed scenery, lighting, and projections for many shows in the North Carolina and Virginia regions. In addition, he is a veteran of the United States Army.

Matt started surfing in Virginia Beach at the age of 8, where he spent his summers enjoying one of his favorite hobbies. Then, when he moved to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, he became an avid snowboarder. He has only missed two seasons in the past 25 years. When asked about Alaska, Matt said, "It is gorgeous here. After visiting on the ship, I told myself if I ever had the opportunity to move here I would go for it." Also accompanying him is Molly, a rescued 4 year old black lab.

Amos Secoy – MSC Graduate

By Samatha Brumagin



"Computers have always been a hobby of mine. I also knew technology wasn't going to be affected by the market and would always need people to manage it."

As a non-traditional student seeking a degree for a second career, Amos found the program at MSC very welcoming with many other non-traditional students looking for a new path. After being in the construction business for almost 10 years, and with and the housing market dying off in 2008, Amos knew he needed a degree for a new career.

"Things fell perfectly into place for me."

Amos graduated from MSC in May of 2012 with an Associates of Applied Science in Computer Systems Technology (CST). While working toward his degree, he began working part-time at Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults (MSSCA) and quickly took over as head of MSSCA's IT system which is comprised of 17 servers and supports 280 employees.

"I have obtained more information and achieved a lot since my time at Mat-Su College. I want to make sure that knowledge is passed on."

Amos values education and the opportunities he has worked hard for since his time at MSC. As a way to give back, Amos teaches at MSC as an Adjunct Professor within the CST Department. Amos also sits on the CST Advisory Council and has donated an IBM AS400 to the program for students to see the evolution of the equipment. This past Winter Break, Amos also spent a full week of his vacation time on a time-consuming special project for the department. After many hours of work on the advanced equipment, Amos had it programmed and up and running. He has also built a new rack for the whole system.

"Amos is very supportive of the school and excited to help. He believes in reinvesting in this program through teaching, donating time and more."
– Professor Harry Banks.

Soldiers Coming Home

by Gary Haag

The Animal Plant network recently broadcast a special called "Glory Hounds" that showed military trained combat dogs and their handlers.

The majority of these K-9 soldiers were trained to detect explosives, mostly improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These explosive have been responsible for the death of hundreds of brave men and women who chose to serve their country. These dogs have been so successful at detecting IEDs that insurgents have begun deliberately targeting them and their handlers. On the program, the dog handlers told us about the lives these dogs saved and the incredible bond that was formed between dog and handler. It was no wonder these dogs are loved and honored like any other soldier in the company.

These dogs are my heroes. They do what dogs do best: go to any length to please their owners.

The special showed a mother of one of the many brave soldiers handling dogs in Afghanistan. She waits and and prays that his dog Zora will keep him safe.

Months later, a large crowd of loved ones gathers in anticipation of the arrival of a bus loaded with soldiers returning from Afghanistan. The young dog handler steps off the bus and his mother hugs him tight with joy and relieved for his safe return. She screams, "My son, my son, you're home!" Then she turns with tears in her eyes and puts her hand on a can the young soldiers was carrying and says, "Thank you, Zora, for bringing my son home safe." You see, Zora was killed in action and her remains were in the can the young soldier was carrying. Zora L 356 saved lives and will be missed by all who knew her.

Flashed on the screen were these words: "Dogs are not our whole lives. Dogs make our lives whole."

Student Ambassadors tallying votes during the Great American Smokeout

Should the College Go Smoke Free?

By Samuel Ouellette

To go smoke free or not to go smoke free?

That is the question.

Mat-Su College posed this question to the student body during the Great American Smokeout on November 21st. The event was hosted in the Atrium of Mat-Su College and was sponsored by the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society. During the event people were invited to vote on whether Mat-Su College should go totally smoke free (Currently, smoking is banned inside UAA facilities – including Mat-Su College – but permitted outside, so long as it is not within 20 feet of entrances). The final tally for the poll was 137 for an entirely smoke-free campus, and 36 students against further restrictions on smoking.

Quantum Computers: The Future of Computing

By Sarah Frances Tuttle

We are all familiar with computers. We work with computers, own computers, and implement them in our daily lives. Speed, performance, storage and computational power are vital and we are always trying to make them faster, smarter, and better. Every year we make computer chips smaller and smaller with more computing power and storage. But there is only so small you can go before you start working on a quantum level; and that's where things get interesting.

The next step in the computer game is quantum supercomputing. This may sound like something out of the pages of a science fiction novel, but in reality many of us may use, or own, quantum computers in our lifetime. The computers we are familiar with are digital computers. Digital computers use bits to store information in the forms of ones and zeros. Quantum computers are different in that they use qubits to maintain series of ones, zeros, and any combination of the quantum superposition of ones and zeros. According to quantum mechanics, superposition is the act of a physical system, such as an electron, being in more than one place at one time.

This seemingly simple difference between digital and quantum computers actually has dramatic implications. For example pairing qubits together increases their capacity exponentially. A pair of two qubits can be in any superposition of four states, and three qubits in any superposition of 8. No one would say that our current digital computers are slow, bulky or inefficient. After all we have been able to shrink them to carry them around in our pockets. However, our current digital computers are so far behind the capacity of quantum computers that a typical digital computer would be unable to support 500 qubits. A terabyte of digital information is 2^43 bits, which is nothing to take lightly. But 500 qubits is roughly equivalent to 2^501 bits of storage. Imagine playing video games on a computer with that much storage.

Using quantum computers has a lot more potential than just storage. Government and civilians alike are very interested in the breakthroughs that quantum computing will provide to cryptography. Cryptography uses encryption to protect important information when it is created, stored, or transferred through an electronic medium. Encryption makes it possible for the government to send sensitive information across the globe, and it makes it possible for you to buy goods from Amazon.com without having your information stolen. It's not a perfect system, though, and sometimes encryption is defeated and sensitive information is leaked. The way in which qubits work will make encryption so much more secure, by making it incredibly difficult to decode. Quantum computers will also be able to create quantum simulations, which are vital to technological breakthroughs. As we get more heavily invested in fields such as nanotechnology we find ourselves deeper and deeper in quantum waters. By creating quantum simulators that we can map out in computers, we will be able to more efficiently and effectively create new technologies.

We may one day have quantum supercomputers as a common household item, but as of today the technology is still in its infancy. There are many problems faced by engineers and physicists to get this technology off the ground floor. The largest current problem is the issue of quantum decoherance. Quantum systems are extremely sensitive and are easily altered by outside influence in a way that digital computers are not. Full isolation of the system is required for total success, and this milestone has not yet been overturned. The only quantum computer to have been built is named the D-Wave One, and was built by D-Wave Systems in 2011. It was purchased by Lockheed Martin, and is being housed at the University of Southern California where it is being studied. The creation and promotion of this product has caused a division between investors and academia. Investors are thrilled to support the next generation of computers, but academics is concerned that D-Wave have not sufficiently demonstrated that they understand and are using quantum principles. The reason for this is that the engineers at D-Wave used empirical processes to determine wither or not the chips could perform operations instead of designing the chips off of a thorough understanding of quantum mechanical processes.

Quantum computers have a long road yet to travel before becoming a common household item, but their potential is unrivaled. This technology will revolutionize our electronic and technological worlds.

Fantasy Football for Real: the 2014 NFL Pro-Bowl

By Samuel Ouellette

This year fans got to see a different looking Pro Bowl. In contrast to previous Pro Bowls, when each conference fielded a team, this year NFL veterans Deion Sanders and Jerry Rice picked the teams, drafting players irrespective of conference. As such, this Pro Bowl pitted regular season teammates against each other. There were also some new rules. The biggest change was to get rid of kickoffs (the ball was automatically placed on the 20 yard line). Many fans were skeptical about this rule because they felt it was a way for NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to see if getting rid of the kick off worked. Other rule changes included a two-minute warning being added to the first and third quarters , the ball changing hands after each quarter, and defenses being permitted to play "cover two" and "press" coverage. (In Pro Bowls past, only man coverage was permitted, except in goal-line situations). Overall the rule changes did not make huge impacts to the game except the no kick off rule. In the end Team Rice won 22-21 and we saw the first real Pro Bowl football in a long time.

Requesting Courses at MSC

Sarah Frances Tuttle

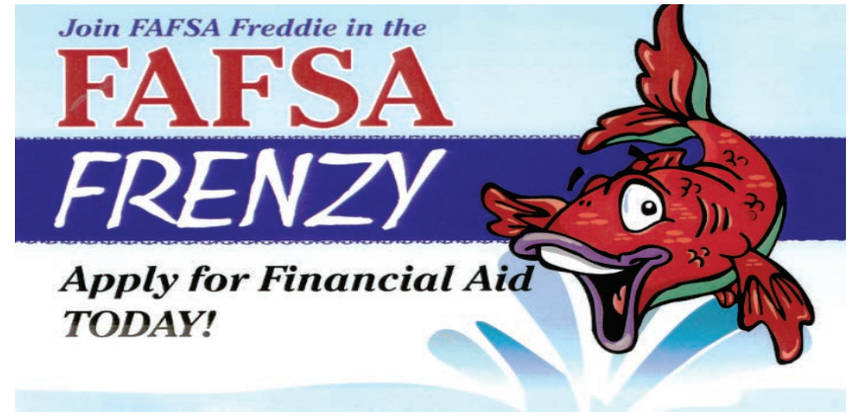
Many of us have wondered about the courses offered at the Mat-Su campus. How can we get different classes? Can we get higher level classes in the Valley instead of going to Anchorage? What if we want or need a class that isn't offered at MSC or UAA? Fulfilling course requirements is vital to success in college so it's important to know how to get the most out of your time.

Requesting a new course is a fairly easy process. Academic Affairs has made it simple by posting forms and a drop box on their corkboard. This board sits close to the Cafe in JKB across from the new Student Government room (the old Copy Center in JKB 114). To request a course all you need is the course number and signatures of other people who want the same course. Post your form to the board where others walking by can see and sign it. When it's full simply place it in the drop box on the board or bring it to Academic Affairs.

Having the course number for the class you want is key. All courses offered through the entire University of Alaska Anchorage system can be found in the UAA catalog which is available through Academic Affairs. Getting courses at MSC that are already in the UAA catalog is much easier than getting one that is not. If a course is listed in the catalog it means that it has been approved and regulated by the board. If the class you want is not listed it will need to be approved and regulated by the board before it can be implemented in any of the schools, and this takes more time and requires a large amount of student interest and need. Say you need a course for your major, but it isn't in the system or it isn't currently being taught at your campus. First things first, get started early. Course requests take time! Getting a new class can take 2 months to a year or more to get started because there are a lot of factors involved.

One of the most difficult issues involved in getting a new course up and running is finding a qualified teacher. If a new course is approved MSC will put out an ad for an adjunct instructor to teach the course. However, finding qualified individuals can be difficult in the Valley, especially for technical and high level learning such as the sciences and technology. It is important also to know that full-time faculty at MSC teach a minimum of four classes. So if your dream is to take one 400 level nanotechnology building class at our humble campus, you should know that dream may not come true. Another pressing problem that can cut a new class quickly is low registration. Say that UAA approves that 400 level nanotechnology building class and MSC manages to find a wonderfully qualified teacher, but only 2 people sign up to take the course. The financial obligations of the campus to support the teacher, the course, the room, and all other expenses utterly dwarf the monetary support of the students actually taking the course. And as much as we don't like to talk about it, if a college is hemorrhaging money through courses either the courses get cut or student fees increase, and no one wants that.

Cont. on back page - Requesting



Upcoming Financial Aid Deadlines:

It is time to apply for financial aid again. To do this, you should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is a way to see what federal student aid you are eligible for. The FAFSA can be filled out at fafsa.ed.gov. (Our school code, by the way, is 011462). FAFSA is free, so don't ever use a website that asks you to pay to submit your FAFSA.

Here are the important upcoming financial aid events and deadlines:

February 28: University of Alaska Grant deadline. You must complete FAFSA before this date to qualify.

April 15: If you qualify for supplement educational opportunity grant (SEOG) money, you must you're your FAFSA before April 15.

If you have any questions about financial aid, you can meet with a financial aid advisor. They are available Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Call 745-9762 to schedule an appointment. You can also visit matsu.alaska.edu/office/student-services/financial-aid to find answers to common financial aid questions.

Complete a FAFSA by February 28

to be entered into a drawing for one of **six $100 Visa cards!**

For more tips and advice, participate in your campus FAFSA Frenzy activities, contact your local financial aid office, or visit **alaska.edu/fafsafrenzy**

Hook Freddie the FAFSA Fish on UA's Facebook Page! facebook.com/uasystem

Tackle Your FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

To apply you will need:

- Social Security Number
- Driver's License
- 2013 Tax Return*
- Investment Statements
- Bank Statements
- PIN

Then log on to **fafsa.ed.gov**
The process is easier than ever!

**You can complete the FAFSA even if your taxes aren't done. Use 2012's taxes or 2013's paystubs. You can adjust your application later.*

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

What is a Student Ambassador?

The Student Ambassador Program provides emerging student leaders with opportunities to develop their leadership, teamwork, communication, and other professional skills. Student Ambassadors play an instrumental role in projecting to the campus and surrounding community the image of Mat-Su College as a high-quality academic institution with a uniquely student-centered focus.

Do you want to develop your leadership, communication, event planning, and other important academic and professional skills? We are beginning our recruitment for 2014/2015 MSC Student Ambassadors. Watch for flyers in the hallway and apply online at *www.uakjobs.com.*

I am a Student Ambassador

Yana Sinyawski

My name is Yana Sinyawski. Though I was raised in Alaska, I have ties to Azerbaijan and Belarus through my parents.

After graduating high school in 2011, I started taking classes at Mat-Su College to earn my degree in finance. Three years later I am still faithfully plowing through. Except this year there is one difference: I am a Student Ambassador.

I became aware of the Student Ambassador position through a professor. I applied for the job, not really knowing what I was getting into. Now I am glad I did. Being a Student Ambassador has given me opportunities to become involved. Not only that, but it has helped shape my college experience. I was never more a part of campus life than I am now. I know there are other opportunities available for students and my advice is to take them.

Many students don't even know about half of the stuff that goes on their own local campus; they just arrive to class and leave. By the

time they graduate college, the leave without any memorable experiences of college life. Mat-Su College does its best to involve students. Students have to make the choice to become a part of the experience. So, get

plugged in. Join a club, make connections. Check out what's up on the Mat-Su College Facebook page, the Student Ambassadors website (http://matsu.alaska.edu/office/student-services/student-ambassadors/), or the Mat-Su College website. Your experience is only as good as you make it.

This past year, being part of SA has allowed me to be part of a Leaders Retreat Camp, participate in team building activities and become involved in Mat-Su College. But most of all, it has helped be make connections with faculty and fellow students. After all, Student Ambassadors are here for YOU, the student. Tell us how we can make your experience better.

MSC Student Ambassador Mission Statement

Mat-Su College Student Ambassadors are a select group of dynamic student leaders who facilitate student transition and retention by providing bridges within the MSC community. Ambassadors weave meaningful connections and promote dialogue between students, administration, staff, faculty, and our local community.

My Student Ambassador Journey

Everret Hamilton

Why did I become a Student Ambassador? If I were to walk you through the decision making process you would nod your head and agree. My motivations were simple, at best. I needed a job. Not only did I need a job but I wouldn't mind having a job somewhere that I already had an obligation to be at. The phrase "two birds with one stone" came to mind. I figured that I had to be at school so I might as well get paid to be there.

The truth has more depth than I had known. The Student Ambassador position is a leadership role. One primary function of a Student Ambassador is to help facilitate the journey of new students. I have come to find out that I have been a Student Ambassador for longer than I have been on the Mat-Su College payroll. (I will have to speak to them about that.) What I mean to say is that I have been facilitating the transition of new students to the college before I was even employed by the college to do so. I remember many nights of long conversations with friends about school.

"You can go for free!," I would exclaim. "If you qualify for the Pell grant, why would you not go to school?," I would ask. It was when faced with these questions that my friends had few answers.

The thought of having to sell something to someone that is free has always been an interesting challenge to me. A majority of my work consists of getting the word out. "We are here! We exist! AND WE ARE HERE TO HELP! IT'S FREE!!!" I think that honestly, honestly, that true charitable help is such a rarity in this world that no one wants to buy take it even if it is free to them.

Student Ambassadors lead New Student Orientation as well as host and assist with special events throughout the campus. These events are supposed to create a sense of community amongst fellow students. These activities help people network and make friends. If you see a Student Ambassador, or have an idea for an event on campus, feel free to say hello and start a conversation.

Student Workers

by Sarah Frances Tuttle

Students working on campus are common. They help us in the library, they work in Student Services, Physical Plant uses student labor, even teachers and department heads have student assistants or secretaries. But how does one become a student worker? What are the requirements to work as a student for the Mat-Su Campus?

All information regarding student workers can be found in the Regent's Policy Part IX – Student Affairs Chapter 09.05 – Employment of Students document. This document can be found online at : http://www.alaska.edu/bor/policy/09-05.pdf. There are two main requirements for working as a student for our campus: one must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher, and be enrolled with 6 or more credits in the UA system. Because the GPA requirement is cumulative it does not mean that having one bad semester will make you ineligible as a student worker. As long as your GPA is high enough to remain matriculated, or keep receiving FAFSA, you can apply for student work positions. You must be enrolled with 6 or more credits per semester for the year for which you are applying. This includes both Spring and Fall classes, but excludes Summer classes. Due to the interconnected nature of the UA system, your classes can be taken anywhere in the UA network. Many of the students enrolled at UA take distance courses and this rule is in place partly for them. It is also in place because the whole of the UA system is very connected, and courses taken as far apart as Fairbanks to the Kenai Peninsula all register under the same system. In other words, if you're a student living in the Mat-Su Valley and taking courses through Anchorage or Kenai, as long as you are taking 6 or more credits, you are still eligible to work for the Mat-Su campus.

Turnover on student jobs varies quite a lot. There are some positions that change every year, such as Student Ambassadors. This is to keep the pool fresh, so to speak, and ensure that many students get the chance to experience this opportunity. However there are many jobs that don't refresh every year. Some positions, such as Student Services, require training and familiarization with the system so it makes sense to re-hire the same trained, compatible staff for as long as those students maintain enrollment. This can be true for many student aides and secretaries as well. If a department or staff member find a 'perfect fit' worker, they are more likely to keep that student until they move to a different campus or graduate. Many of us may want more opportunity for turnover, but in reality it makes things run much more smoothly to keep good workers for extended periods of time instead of being forced to re-train workers every other semester. New and old positions do open up all year round though, so keep your eyes on the website and keep applying. All student job listings can be found through UAKjobs.com. You can also find them by navigating through UAOnline under Employment Opportunities. UA jobs can only be applied for online.

Cont. on Back Page -Student Workers

What do you mean I didn't get the job?

By Stony Darkó

Reflections on Scientific Constraints

by Gene Kelly

People throughout time have thought of the persuasions of their age as modern. Our present so called modern age has elements of ancient thought that are rooted in early Humanism. Remember the mortals attempting ascents of Mt. Olympus to join the deity club? Those elements contribute to fallacies that handicap academia.

Webster's Encyclopedia Dictionary has two definitions to ponder in that regard.

Scientism; noun, the belief that the assumptions, methods of research, etc., of the physical and biological sciences are equally appropriate and essential to all other disciplines, including the humanities and social sciences.

Scientistic; adj., Characterized by or having an exaggerated belief in the principles and methods of science.

The pivotal word belief in both definitions displays the narrow, rigid dogmatism exampled in claims of "settled science." Is the parent discipline to science, philosophy, to receive an amnesiac overhaul into status as a supposed science? When the definition of science undergoes a perpetual semantic stretching, beyond controlled, quantifiable observations, a degeneration in the exercise of science occurs.

A compelling case can be made that science, through its dependence on etiology (causational studies), is actually an exercise in philosophy. There never has been the assumed cleavage between the two presumed

Cont. on Back Page - Reflection

Are You a Thinker or a Doer?

By Denise Reeve

Are you a thinker or a doer? This question was posed to me years ago in sales training for my job. As I listened to the trainer I discovered successful people do both. I think the trainer should have said are you a worrier or a doer? That question makes more sense. Examination of both paradigms offers one a choice that often results in different outcomes. I ask you to ponder the following and then answer the question.

What is a thinker (aka the worrier)? In college philosophy the discussion was about critical thinking; considering what you hear or read and determining which bits of data or information are emotionally charged, simply fact-based, or even necessary to make a choice or decision. This type of thinking is key to successful decision and/or choice selection; I consider it a good thing. What the trainer stressed years ago, however, was over-thinking that often results in no choice or decision being made; essentially the "paralysis of analysis". Let's say I need to make a pie for a student government bake sale should it be pumpkin? Banana cream, maybe cherry, what about peach cobbler? Gluten free? What if no one likes the pie I choose? What if the pie doesn't sell? You get the picture. When people over-think choices fear of what the outcome may be results in no choice selected. Sometimes fear of public scrutiny or opinion seems to out weigh making a choice; have you heard of a wait and see attitude? This seems to indicate that.

So let's look at the doer. By writing this I chose to select a topic, regardless of issues, opinions, etc and take action (aka do). This action takes motivation, time and effort and results in a product (the article). At the end of this endeavor, I know from previous actions taken, I will feel a sense of accomplishment and relief if the article was an assignment I agreed to do (which it was). So, actions, accomplishment, both good results, right? What about action taken without thought, say for example I toss a cream pie into the Student Government President's face? Well there is the mess, the resulting feelings caused, maybe even a pie coming right back at me. These are all results of my thoughtless action for which I am solidly responsible. Had I thought the scenario out, I might have chosen to share said pie with the president, which probably would have less negative results.

Worry is an emotion-based thought process that can be used to avoid taking action or making a choice; I have observed people worry longer and more diligently than the action to complete the task would have taken. Emotional decisions are rarely based in fact and often facilitate more emotions. Action without thought can be equally inefficient resulting in additional problems or work to complete the task. So I ask now are you a thinker or a doer? Think a minute and then answer.

Successful people are known to think and visualize themselves with the task already completed; this motivates them to take the actions necessary to achieve the goal or task.

I am both; I review my choices (think) and then take action (do) to efficiently get the task done. So what if my choice was wrong? I take responsibility for the outcome and choose again (usually differently)… but that is a different article for another time (I think). Anyone interested in pie?

Kids2College

By Jacob Mann

This April, the annual Kids2College event will give 5th grade students from Knik Elementary kid-sized portions of life at Mat-Su College.

Working alongside the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and the UA College Savings plan, local schools bring students to college campuses for a fun day of activities. But before running around with the big kids, the students take time in class to learn about careers, how to get them, and to ask local employers questions.

Amy Seamans, admissions representative at Mat-Su college, believes it is important to get young students to think about their futures. Otherwise, "they might only think about a job that they know their parents have," Amy says. While researching career paths, the students learn about the nuts and bolts of college and how to get in.

Now, with the seed growing, the kids walk through college doors to a day of fun activities. Workshops and lessons get students excited about a new kind of school. Amy laughs, "Students absolutely have a blast. It's pretty hands on and the kids are engaged and excited with a mix of different subjects; they get exposure to things that they don't usually get on a regular basis."

At the end of the day, each student receives a certificate and piggy bank with $1 to kick off savings for college. Amy says these simple, small steps encourage the kids to go home to their parents and talk about college. "It's cool to watch them go through that process of figuring out what they want to do.

Because college can be really scary, it's a lot easier to digest a complex situation if you've had exposure to little bits and pieces over time. It's less scary of a process."

An idea like this is worth spreading. Amy laments, "we would love to have every elementary school be a part in it. We're looking into giving the other schools the Kids2College curriculum so even if they can't visit they can still get exposed to an early start. The biggest challenge is the amount of space. With the new theater coming, it's going to help give us bigger space for more students."

She stirs in her chair, as if to run off to the next project. This is her 7th year coordinating on the campus side, bringing in speakers, organizing the events, talking to teachers, faculty, K-12 specialist Shelly Morgan, and just about every one involved. "I just try to keep the event up and running," she says with a smile. This year, kids can go home after a fun day at college and share what they learned with their parents, spreading the seed, growing the idea of a new future – in kid portions.

Community Outreach Club

Amy Dorsey [Youth at Risk, Coordinator for the M.S.B.S.D.] a Co-Chair for Project Homeless Connect, accepts the donated items amassed during Mat-Su College's "Soap and Socks" collection drive.

Mat-Su Borough Dep't of Emergency Services

State of Ak Dep't of Health & Human Services

STATE of ALASKA Department of Health and Social Services

Health Emergency Response Operations

200 Volunteer Victims Needed for Mass Casualty Drill !!

HALE BOREALIS

50th Anniversary of the 1964 Earthquake

Friday March 28 - Saturday March 29

Register ar www.haleborealis.com

The new Community Outreach Club at Mat-Su College would like to invite you to join us in any number of endeavors, as we scan the globe for projects in need of a few helping hands!

Our mission statement:

The Community Outreach Club exists as a gathering place for the Mat-Su College population to participate in positive ways, through active engagement. Our goal is to facilitate involvement in our surroundings, develop a volunteering spirit, and seek out ways to contribute to the betterment of our fellow man.

Check out our information board located across from the Student Government office for upcoming events, trainings, and volunteer opportunities. You can also find information on our Facebook page.

We will be meeting in FSM, Room 201
Friday, Feb. 28 @ 11:00 a.m.
Friday, March 28, @ 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 9, @ 4:00 p.m.
Friday, April 25, @ 11:00 a.m.

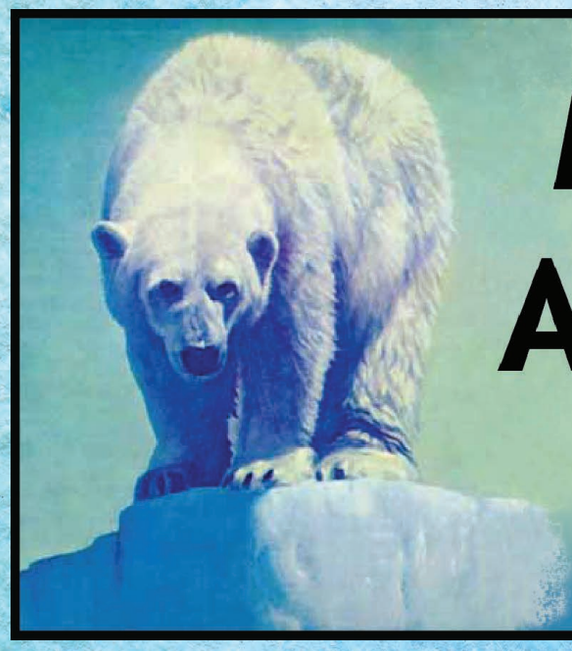
Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you there!

By Deanna Geary

The Community Outreach Club of Mat-Su College would like to thank everyone in the college community who participated and donated to the club's first project, "Soap and Socks." We reached our goal of 200 items of bar soap or body wash, as well as 95 pairs of new socks of various sizes. We also had donated to the cause: 13 bottles of shampoo, 12 bottles of conditioner, 8 bottles of mouth wash, and 2 bottles of lotion.

The items were distributed to those in need during the Mat-Su Valley's Project Homeless Connect, which was held on January 29, 2014 at the Curtis Menard Sport Center in Wasilla. The event was part of the state-wide, "point in time" homelessness count.

This helps our communities to have a better understanding of how many of our neighbors do not have a permanent place to live. At the same time it encourages those in need to seek help, and allows volunteers to show them some compassion. Thank you again for sharing your kindness.



Machetanz Arts Festival

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Coming June 7

Check for updates at matsu.alaska.edu/MAF

Also Coming!
See the Summer14 Schedule for more information

4-day Watercolor Workshop June 3-6 with Robert J. O'Brien, NWS AWS

www.robertjobrien.com

Machetanz Arts Festival Founding Sponsors

RASMUSON FOUNDATION · ConocoPhillips · bp · First National Bank Alaska

Additional Sponsors

Alaska State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts · Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union · Frontiersman · Make-A-Scene, The People's Paper · Let's Party Event Planners, Let Us Get Your Party Started! · Three Bears Alaska

For more information contact Felicia Desimini at fdesimini@matsu.alaska.edu or 907.745.9755

facebook.com/Machetanz · @MachetanzArtFes

UAA/MSC is an EEO/AA employer and educational institution.

Inspired Files: Love Is

Anonymous

It was early one day in February, and I was home sick in bed. It was very cold that day; I could hear the wind howling outside of my cabin. For reasons I still do not understand to this day, I was filled with love. I could not stop thinking about it. I found this very odd because I was so sick. With a desire deep down inside, I got out of bed, went to my desk, picked up a pen and started writing. The next day, this is what I found on the paper:

When you fall in love with someone, you can't just take it back whenever you like. Love does not just go away. There is no valve on love; you don't turn it on and off when you wish. Love is like a river, it flows in, and it flows out. I once was so much in love, and once was loved so much. I was head over heels in love. More than all the words in the world could say, LOVE is GOD'S greatest emotion.

Love Is

I have loved happy;
I have loved sad,
love can be good
and love can be bad.
Love goes up,
love goes down, it's in
your heart and it's all
around.
Love comes and love
goes,
love is honest, love
always knows.
Love can heal, love can
hurt. In the end,
love always wins.
Love rocks, love rolls,
love fills our hearts,
love fills our souls.
Nothing compares to true
love.

Be completely humble and gentle;be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. -
Ephesians 4:2-3

Upcoming art events

Book arts show (Feb. 8 – Mar 1; opening reception Feb 8, Fireside Books, 3-7 PM).

The Mat-Su College Book Arts Show challenges the entire Mat-Su College community to to make art out of books. Most welcome are book jackets, interpretations of books as sculptural objects, and any submission that challenges the concept of a book. Deliver submissions to FSM 202 no later than January 30, 2014 for display at Fireside Books from Feb 8 to March 1.

High school portfolio competition:

The Mat-Su College Art Department seeks portfolios from talented high school artists for its annual contest. The first place winner will receive a two-semester scholarship to Mat-Su College (not more than 12 credit hours), a bronze plaque, and a certificate of achievement. The second place winner will receive a six-credit scholarship to Mat-Su College and a certificate of achievement. The third place and honorable mention winners will receive certificates of achievement.

Artwork will be on display from February 21 to March 14 in FSM 200 (the art gallery)

Get involved with YOUR paper!

The Mat-Su Monitor is open to students of all experience levels. A paper like ours always needs writers, artists, graphic designers, advertisement coordinators, photographers, and more (maybe you can contribute something we haven't even thought of)!

Meetings: Mondays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 12:50, in OLB 214 (upstairs in library).

The Mat-Su Monitor team is

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Layout Artist
Audrey Badger

Faculty Advisor
Micah Muer

Staff writers
Gary Haag
Jacob Mann
Samuel Ouellette
Denise Reeve
Anna Roehl
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Deanna Geary
Everret Hamilton
Gene Kelly
Yana Sinyawski
Mike Swanson

Cartoons
Stony Darkó

Photographs
Samantha Brumagin
Gary Haag

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed thoughrout the Valley. We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost, B/W	Cost, Color
1/8th page	$75	$125
1/4th page	$100	$175
1/2 page	$180	$300
Full page	$300	$375
Full page, back	Always color	$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call 745-9758.

LUNAFEST
short films by, for, about Women

APRIL 4, 2014

Short films & silent auction begin at 6 p.m.

Benefiting:

MY House

BREAST CANCER FUND
PREVENTION STARTS HERE.

Films by, for, and about women.

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Mat-Su College

Announcing the Wildlife Wednesdays Lecture Series

By Anna Roehl

Have you ever heard a Native Elder tell a story? Have you visited with an Archeologist who told you their firsthand account of an excavation? Did you know about the only species of fish that can breathe air? Enjoy Moose hunting?

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats are teaming up this spring to provide a series of lectures – Wildlife Wednesdays – at Mat-Su College. Each event takes place from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on the last Wednesday of February, March, April, and May. The only cost to you is the gas it takes to get here.

February 26th: Elder Patricia Wade of Chickaloon Native Village will share stories of Ahtna life and history.

March 26th: Archaeologist Fran Seager-Boss will present on Dena'ina caches.

April 30th: Jonathan Stecyk, biology professor at UAA, will talk about air-breathing fish.

May 28th: Todd Rinaldi of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game will talk about moose population in the Mat-Su Valley.

The series was started in 2003 to showcase interesting wildlife topics and and learn about Native Alaska cultures. Each event is the opportunity to bring about the conservation of Alaska's wildlife and Native culture.

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, a new advice column that will appear regularly in the Mat-Su Monitor. If you have a question you'd like to see answered, email it to sophia@matsu.alaska.edu or submit it in the Ask Sophia box in the lobby of the FSM building.

Q: Dear Sophia:

I have awful neighbors who steal my cats from my yard. I have a fence, but the cats go over it. Then, later in the day, I get calls from the animal shelter telling me they have my cat. It has happened once with my dog as well. How should I handle this issue? I already bought a new fence.

Signed Bark-Meow! Thanks!

A: Dear Bark,

It seems your nefarious neighbors may be less likely to blame since, according to you, your cats are able and willing to leave the yard unassisted. Unsupervised cats may be apt to spray their scents, dig in trash, yowl at all hours, terrorize other pets and people in the neighborhood, and multiply. Being outside with your pets can better ensure their safety and security. If your new fence is kitty proof, you may consider installing a pet door, so they do not get bored or lonely outside by themselves and start some mischief. And, of course, unless you are planning on breeding, spaying and neutering are always responsible choices.

Q:Dear Sophia,

I have a friend that is hard into drugs. I'm not sure how to help him. He is homeless and jobless. How should I go about helping him? He means the world to me. Help!

Signed From Concerned

A: Dear Concerned,

Whatever you do, don't give him money! Do not be his enabler! You can help him best by listening. Substance abuse is the topcoat on deeper issues. You cannot make him want to change. When your friend decides to clean up his act you will be someone he can talk to. *Alaska Family Services* (907-745-4000) may be a good place for him to start – when he's ready.

Q: Dear Sophia,

I want to get more into the dating world, but I am lost as to where to start looking.

Signed Single, Enough said...

A: Dear Enough,

Get out! Put yourself on the market. Go to parties and coffee shops. Talk to your friends. Join a bowling league, volunteer. Go where your interests are. Maybe try online dating.

Q: Dear Sophia,

When will the campus get a bar?

Signed Anxious Drinker

A: Dear Anxious,

Like many towns in Alaska, UAA Mat-Su Campus will continue to remain a "dry" village.

A Completely Boring and Not at All Ridiculous Guide to Making Goals

by Michelle Sharpe

February has come and is almost gone, and I have one thing to ask you. How is that New Year's resolution going? Were you able to make good on your resolution all through January? Has your goal been met yet? Or, are you, like the rest of us, thinking, "there's always next year?"

What if I were to tell you that most people who make New Year's resolutions are doomed to fail before they even attempt to carry out what they've resolved to do? And what if I were to tell you that it's not completely their fault? Take a second to think about what resolutions. Resolutions are nothing more than goals that we have made in order to improve ourselves. The problem that most people face is that they make goals that are impossible. Fear not, good reader, for I am the wise college student here to share with you the secret of making goals you can accomplish.

From a young age, we are all taught to have goals. Everyone has a certain goal that they wish to achieve, whether it is to lose some weight, quit smoking, go to school, or be a better person. We all have some sort of desire that will somehow make us a more desirable person to get along with. As a matter a fact, just to make this article more interactive, think of a goal that you'd like to accomplish. Any goal whatsoever. Whether it is to finally do those home improvements, or whether it's just something you've been thinking about doing for a while but haven't gotten around to doing it, think of it. You got it? Okay, now the first thing that any person must ask themselves before planning and carrying out a goal, is "How much am I willing to do to carry out my goal? Is my goal really that important?" Think about your goal, and think about your feelings towards it. Are you really enthusiastic about it and are thinking things like, "I really do want to change, I just don't know where to start!" Or are your feelings more along the line of something like, "Well, it would be nice to be more in shape, but I don't really care if I am in good enough shape to do a triathlon." If you feel apathetic towards your goals, there is a good chance that you will fail in meeting the requirements to reach them. But, if you truly are invested in your goals and truly do want to see them through to the end, well then, the hard part is over, and you are well on your way to achieving them.

Accomplishing goals benefits from a good support system. Some goals are hard, and it always helps to have someone there telling you, "You're doing great! Don't give up! Keep going!" And if you fail your goal completely, it is nice to have someone there to say "Hey, it's okay. You can always try again. Don't worry about it." Having a support system isn't absolutely necessary for reaching your goals, but it sure does help and make it less stressful.

The most important goal-making consideration is to choose something realistic and accomplishable. "Well, DUH!" you're probably saying right now. Allow me to elaborate further. The number one mistake that most people make when forming goals or making a New Year's Resolution is that when they make a goal, they do not make a specific or small enough goal that will allow them to ultimately reach their bigger goal. Think of it this way, when you see a baby, you do not see parents looking at the infant and saying things like, "We must start training him/her right now so that they can go to college and create a cure for cancer!" No, most parents

Cont. on Back Page - Goals

Spring Dance
Friday, March 28th
Lessons from 4:30 to 6:00 PM.
Dance from 7:00 to 11:00 PM.

Salsa by Naive Naidu from The Noun Project

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Requesting

So what about higher level courses that many students require for their degrees? Again, finding a qualified adjunct can be problematic. Moreover, the purpose of the Matanuska-Susitna College campus is to be a two year facility that funnels its students down to Anchorage, or up to Fairbanks. The Mat-Su campus was never intended to be a four year institution. UAA controls the upper division classes. In fact, smaller campuses like Mat-Su cannot teach over 200 level without permission from UAA.

Academic Affairs wants to hear from students about the courses they want and need to take at MSC. Course requests, wether in the catalog or not, are taken very seriously. Students can best navigate the request process by starting early, finding the course in the catalog, and being realistic with requests.

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Reflections

in "modern" thought. Rather than weakening the exercising of scientific observation, my argument strengths it by appropriately tightening its definition. Marcel Duchamp got it right in portraying humanity descending into a mechanistic, alienated, degeneration in Nude Descending a Staircase. The next time you contemplate making the discipline of history into a science, consider your inability to replicate, control, and observe the French and Russian revolutions!

Don't tell the Parisians or Muscovites of your intentions; they will put you in jail. Humble pie is such an appropriate taste for Humanists to acquire.

Continued from page 14

Goals

aim to make sure that their children meet little goals so that they can continue onto the next one. You need to think like how parents think. Take "baby steps" in order to ultimately achieve the bigger goal. So instead of saying things like, "I'm going to lose weight," think first in terms of, "How can I lose weight?" Maybe you can make it a goal to just do 10 jumping jacks when you wake up every morning, or maybe carrying a bag of carrots or an apple with you as a snack throughout the day.

Over the years, I have made resolutions that never seemed to work out. In recent years, my resolution was, "I'm going to make myself a more likable person" but I soon found that that resolution was too vague, and I obviously had no plan when I made it, so I had no idea if I was more likable than I was the year before. So this year I thought, "How can I be a nicer person?" My resolution this year was "I am going to make at least one other person smile every day." So I make sure that I post a funny or heartwarming post on Facebook, or even leave a note on mom's car saying, "I love you" so that it is the first thing she sees when she gets off her 12 hour shift. I have to say, I have been having more success this year than I have had any other year.

I know that meeting goals are hard, but by making smaller, easier goals that will lead you to fulfilling a bigger goal, and by having people who support you, you will find that no goal is impossible. Not even competing in a Triathlon. You can do it, just believe that you can do it, and there will be no stopping you. Good luck.

One more thing. In line with New Year's resolution, I feel that it is my duty to at least say one thing that will hopefully make one person smile, so I will tell a silly joke. What do you call a Detective Alligator? An investigator.

Thank you, and have a good and happy rest of the year.

Continued from page 7

Student Workers

The Employment of Students document states that students who are eligible for work-study are preferred but the decision is ultimately up to the department head doing the hiring. The reason work-study students are preferred is because work-study students have half of their salary paid by government funding. This helps the budget of the hiring department. However, student applicants are not limited to work-study eligible students. Student positions at MSC are usually level 'C', which starts at a wage of $10.50 an hour with the potential to increase by a $0.50 raise every year based on performance. There is a limit to the number of hours you can work each week because the point of a work-study program is to help students while they earn their degrees. The cap is placed at 20 hours per week. This is to ensure that students do not become overworked, and can focus on their studies. The 20 hour per week cap is limited to the Spring and Fall semesters, unless the student is also taking 6 or more credits during the Summer semester. In-between semesters, and during Summer if the student takes 0 to 5 credits, students can work up to full time depending on the needs of the department. It is also important to know that a student can only have one position at the campus. If you have a regular position and also want to be an model for the art department, you will not be allowed to do so.

Campus work positions are valuable tools for students. If you maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher and are taking 6 or more credits throughout the UA network each semester you qualify to work for our campus. It is important to keep your eyes on UAKjobs.com for listings because they do open up all year long.

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